



"Better together" **Neighborhood Associations** **Organizing**

An active neighborhood association can represent a community voice to the City and neighbors building relationships with each

other are the key to a safe and vibrant community. Each neighborhood

has issues and priorities they care most about and a neighborhood association is the perfect way to share ideas and work for the betterment of the community.



Neighborhood Outreach is expanding its level of assistance in helping organize new neighborhood associations and working to re-vitalize existing ones.

Several neighborhoods have upcoming organizing meetings or programs planned for their associations. If you live in one of these neighborhoods, be sure to attend:

- Lake Hills Neighborhood Association, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. at Samena Club
- Downtown Residents Association, Jan. 16, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall
- Northtowne Community Club, Jan. 23, 7:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church

If you've thought about bringing together neighbors in your area, give us a call and we can help you get started. Watch for the **"Better Together"** theme as Neighborhood Outreach brings together neighborhood

associations with a new organizing toolkit, leadership training classes, seed funding, and coaching for leaders of associations. For more information, contact Julie Ellenhorn at 425-452-5372 or jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov.

Moving beyond Assumptions

Tuesday, January 14, 1-2:30pm

Crossroads Community Center

Bellevue women will have an opportunity to meet new friends and make connection in the upcoming Cultural Conversations meeting this month. Sponsored by the City of Bellevue, the program is entering its 4th year since a few women first met for coffee and tea at a Starbucks back in 2010 to learn about each other. On Jan. 14, the program which now has a contact list of more than 270 will turn its focus to "Moving beyond Cultural Assumptions."

We all make assumptions. It is part of our human condition. Too often, assumption is being labeled as a dirty word in our society, because it is perceived as "making stereotype". On the contrary, assumption is an important aspect of understanding context. When we make an assumption, we begin to take possession of the idea or thought. It is not a good thing if we stop right there. However, if we do the hard work of pressing beyond our assumptions, to question our own beliefs, and if we are willing to go deeper to find out what lies beneath an appearance, a thought or notion, we make ourselves open and available to new ideas and knowledge.

In the January gathering, long time Cultural Conversations members Nura Adam and Janet Clark will lead the conversation on how to “climb out of your own box” to gain new friends and new experiences and learn how cultural mishap and labeling is a missed opportunity for understanding and community connections. They will also share their own stories and role play with participants at the meeting. Small group conversations will also be facilitated. The event is 1-2:30 p.m. at the Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St.



Culture isn't just a list of holidays or shared recipes, religious traditions, or language; it is a lived experience unique to each individual. Everybody has a story and storytelling has always been the heart of Cultural Conversations. Members see this as an opportunity to experience others' cultures and comprehend various perspectives. This is also a platform for participants to seek understanding among friends and neighbors who are from different ethnic backgrounds. The relaxed and intimate atmosphere creates a unique and safe environment for women to bond and share their experience with each other. During the first three years of the program, many connections were made and friendships flourished. The City of Bellevue believes by facilitating these “cultural conversations”, we build a more cohesive and involved community.

The exciting topics for this new cycle of Cultural Conversations include (subject to change):

- One family, many cultures

- Cultural translations – how culture, language and perception impact our communication
- Finding your own voice – breaking through cultural challenges and expectations
- Immigration – the gain and the loss
- Cultural attitudes toward aging and elder care

For more information about Cultural Conversations or RSVP for the event, please contact Ying Carlson at 425-452-4342 ycarlson@bellevuwa.gov or Barb Tuininga at 425-452-2735 btuininga@bellevuwa.gov.

Take the West Lake Sammamish Project Completion Survey!

The City of Bellevue recently completed major capital improvements along West Lake Sammamish Parkway (WLSP), from SE 34th Street to I-90. The project



- Added a new paved four-foot shoulder on the east side of the roadway
- Added a multi-use path for pedestrians and bicyclists on the west side of the roadway, with landscaped buffers in certain areas
- Upgraded sidewalk and curb ramps at SE 34th Street, SE 38th Street, and SE 40th Street to make them more accessible for people with disabilities
- Added pedestrian crossings near SE 38th Street and SE 40th Place

If you live in a neighborhood near WLSP, we would like to find out whether this

project met your expectations so that we may improve our project delivery in the future. Please take time to visit our online survey at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/west-lake-samm.htm>. This survey will be open until Friday, January 10, 2014. Thank you for your time and your feedback!

Life of a Transportation Project Workshop

Thursday, January 30, 7:00-8:30pm

*Newport Way Library,
14250 SE Newport Way*

How does a roadway or construction project idea become reality? To help answer this frequently-asked question, the City of Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Group and the Transportation Department are teaming up to offer a "Life of a Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Project" workshop.



The workshop will cover the life cycle of a transportation project from its conceptual idea to finished construction. Residents will learn about land use, long-range and intermediate planning, the role of the Transportation Commission and opportunities for public input. We will also discuss the City's budget process and how priority considerations and funding come into play before a project breaks ground. While this workshop will provide emphasis on South Bellevue transportation projects, including SE Newport Way

and Somerset Blvd sidewalk projects, the workshop provides an opportunity for all interested Bellevue residents to better understand the process.

For more information: contact Carol Ross in Neighborhood Outreach, 425-452-7917, or email cross@bellevuewa.gov

Save the Date for Neighborhood Leadership Gathering

Thursday, February 27, 6:30-8pm

Bellevue City Hall

Neighborhood leaders and others interested in becoming more involved in their neighborhood are invited to participate in the first Neighborhood Leadership Gathering of 2014. The purpose of the event is to encourage dialogue and networking among neighborhood leaders and to provide an update on key issues from city staff. Check the February issue of Neighborhood News for topics and speakers for the Leadership Gathering.

The Neighborhood Leadership Gathering will take place from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, February 27, in room 1E-108 of City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE. Neighborhood association board members, emerging leaders and those interested in becoming more involved in their neighborhood are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6836.



Neighborhood
Leadership Gathering

Save the Date



Frequent lane closures on 112th Avenue



With ongoing development downtown, drivers may encounter periodic lane closures for truck staging on arterials. A lane is now closed on northbound 112th Avenue, Southeast south of Southeast Eighth Street, to make way for large trucks hauling soil excavated from a construction site at Bellevue Way and Main Street.

Truck staging may become more prevalent in and around the city over the next few years to accommodate increased development, East Link construction and other transportation projects.

To stay up-to-date on Bellevue traffic conditions, please check our Traffic Advisories: www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic_advisories.htm. For current roadway impacts, follow the Transportation Department on Twitter: #BvueTrans.

Wilburton Neighborhood to get Streetscape Enhancements

Wilburton neighbors will soon enjoy enhancements to the corridor along 124th Ave NE between Main and NE 8th Street. The 124th Ave corridor is an important connection between the Wilburton neighborhood, the Bel-Red area and SR 520. Included in the Streetscapes Enhancement Project are landscape medians, traffic calming measures, pavement markings, speed legends, stamped concrete crosswalks, gateway enhancements and a new Wilburton neighborhood gateway sign.



Together with the City project team, community volunteers were invited to give their feedback about values and priorities for this area at open houses in summer 2013 and were able to review design at a recent December open house. Final design and construction will begin this summer. A public meeting to review the gateway signage included in the project will be held in 2014. For more information on the overall project, contact project manager, Marina Arakelyan at 425-452-4632 or for information on gateway sign, contact Julie Ellenhorn at 425-452-5372. Project details and design can be viewed at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/2013_1206_124thAve_Boards_FINAL.pdf

January Meetings

(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the City web pages listed below to download agendas.)

1/6 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Economic Development Plan (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/7 East Bellevue Community Council (5:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Single Family Rental Housing Ordinance update, Consideration/development of a Community Council Ethics Code http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

1/7 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Election of Officers http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

1/8 Planning Commission (6:30, Interlake High School Library) Speakers Session - Neighborhood centers and community gathering, Comprehensive Plan update, Subarea Plan Boundaries, Eastgate Plan http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

1/8 Youth Link (6:00 p.m. City Hall) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth_link_board.htm

1/9 Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Transportation Development Code Amendments Public Hearing, Bellevue Transit Master Plan, Multimodal Level of Service http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

1/14 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, 1E-113) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

1/15 East Link Permitting Citizen's Advisory Committee (3:00, 1E-113) Agenda to be determined <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-permitting-cac.htm>

1/16 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

1/16 Bellevue Network on Aging (9:00am, 1E-120) Annual Retreat http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

1/21 City Council (TUESDAY, 6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) One City Presentation, ARCH 2014 Work Program and Budget, ARCH Recommended Housing Trust Fund Projects (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/21 Arts Commission (4:30, 1E-109) Discussion of arts policies for the Comprehensive Plan, Update and a presentation from Music Works Northwest. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

1/21 Library Commission (5:00 p.m. Newport Way Library 14250 S.E. Newport Way Bellevue, WA 98006) KCLS staffing model http://www.bellevuewa.gov/library_board.htm

1/22 Downtown Livability Advisory Committee (6:30 1E-108) State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/downtown-livability.htm>

1/22 Planning Commission (6:30, City Hall 1E-113) Comprehensive Plan Update: Community Vision, Subarea Plan Boundaries http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

1/23 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-120) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

1/27 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional Issues, King County Wastewater Capacity Charge, Update on State Legislative Session, Federal Legislative Agenda, East Link Monthly Update, Update on Environmental Services Initiative http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

Subscribe this newsletter on http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood_news.htm
Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 452-6836.